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Written statement* submitted by The Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 September 2018]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

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Yemen: An Example of Human Rights Violations

The war going on in Yemen is the worst war witnessed by the state. Yemen suffers from poverty, 'slow' growth and poor facilities and services even in the period of stability i.e. before youth revolution. This war was broken out because of Al Houthi Group and some of Al Mo'tamar (Conference) Party, which belongs to the former president Ali Abd Allah Saieh who was overthrown by February 2011, after they refused the outcomes of the national dialogue. Then Sana'a was invaded and the most Yemeni lands were taken over.

During this war all rights were violated whether civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights. The war just resulted in destruction and will yield impacts which will not be removed by the next years and will threaten human rights for many years. In addition, human rights situation in Yemen witnessed severe complicated stage as the armed conflict was bloody, violent and horrible against civilians/ citizens. Al Houthi and Saleh coalition was responsible for the most violations against human Rights and Human International Law till Al Houthi Group assassinated the former president Ali Abd Allah Saleh last December and controlled the taken-over areas. Since that Al Houthi are the controller of the scene and are considered one front which run the conflict accompanied by violations against human rights. Hence Al Houthi Group is responsible for what was committed by its militias and military forces against civilians/citizens.

The violations documented by Yemeni human rights organizations and international organizations committed by all armed conflict parties represented in killing (using all means), assassination crimes, political or revenge-based eliminations against opponents and death penalty outside law. These violations included children, women and elderly especially those called in International Law "The Six Violations" against children and other violations against children and women without protections such as deportation/displacement and homes destruction. Moreover, other forms of violations included forced displacement, arbitrary detention, forced concealment and torture which resulted in the death of detained in some cases; in addition to poor conditions of prisons and detentions places established and run by number of conflict parties. Also the violations included group punishment for citizens who tried to get out of besieged cities, preventing the entrance of relief materials and abstaining the delivery of salaries of state employees the matter which violates their right to get their wages and as a result they left their jobs and searched for other jobs to earn their living for the sake of their children. In addition, the conflict parties robbed the state's revenues and funds in number of areas.

Right to Life

One of the most prominent violations witnessed by Yemen in the recent four years is the violation of the most superior right which is right to life. According to UN figures, this war led to the death of more than 15.000 people. In addition, the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights has revealed that the total of human rights violations cases committed by Al Houthi militias from March 2015 to April 2018 reached 18.491 death cases among them 1372 children. Also the number of injured children reached 3882 from 30362 wounded. On the other hand, the children victims of mines reached 204 death cases and 307 injury cases.

Moreover, the Yemini minister of human rights Dr. Mohamed Askar has revealed the number of dead and wounded since the beginning of the Yemeni crisis saying that they reached more than 38.000 civilians varied between dead and wounded during the period from September 2014 till the end of May 2018. Dr. Mohamed Askar added that "Al Houthi militias committed crimes against humanity in Aden, Abyan, Taiz and Marib since the outbreak of Yemeni crisis". However; in its report "Thousand Days in the War", Oxifam Organization has estimated the death of about 5300 civilians since March 2015 and about 9000 injury cases.

Arbitrary Detention

According to the Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations, Al Houthi Group kidnapped and forcibly concealed 18606 people in different Yemeni governorates in the period from September 2014 to July 2017. In addition, in its annual report, the coalition revealed that the monitored kidnapping cases committed by Al Houthi militias reached 15968 while the forced concealment cases reached 2638 people in different areas in Yemen. The report also has pointed out that the kidnapped suffer severe health problems and conditions because of torture processes against them in the prisons of the militias without a legal justification behind their detention.

Crime against Childhood

Children are the most victims in such conflict especially as all parties abused children. Yet Al Houthi Group is the most prominent party in committing crimes against children. In accordance with the publicized figures by more than human

rights source, Al Houthi Group enforced 40.000 children to carry weapon. In addition, they exploited children in two ways: to balance lack of soldiers from one side and to exploit them on media level.

One of the coalition reports revealed that the number of children recruited by Al Houthi ranges from 15.000 to 20.000 children. In addition, the report assured that Al Houthi Iranian militias force children to leave schools to be in battlefields.

According to the last report by UN, there are more than 1500 children fighting in Al Houthi forces. On the other hand, the High Commission of Human Rights says that the number is much more than this. Some field surveys point out that 30% of the total Al Houthi militias are children.

A report prepared by the National Experts Team, published in March 2017, revealed that Al Houthi Group tempt children using religious slogans to recruit and train them in their camps under what they call "Quran Journey", in addition to Quran memorization centers in many Yemeni cities.

Women

In regard to violations against women's rights, they included killing, kidnapping, detention, verbal and physical assault. In addition, the violation forms include group violations against women, who represent one component in the Yemeni society, among these violations are depriving them from education and literacy, necessary medical care and safe motherhood, in addition to cutting off the poor financial dues paid for some widows every three months in many governorates. According to Oxifam report, the majority of women are the first who deprived from food or have a little. Also the report revealed that 1.1 million pregnant women or breast feeder suffer from malnutrition; the matter which leads to giving birth to babies who suffer from malnutrition. In addition, there are more than 52.000 women expose to danger of complications during birth giving. During the recent two years, violence against women incidents have been increased by more than 63%.

Moreover, since the beginning of the conflict, ratio of early marriage has been increased to reach 66% for girls less than 18 years old, as girls in the age from 8 to 10 years old may get married to decrease the number of family members. In addition, child marriage becomes source of income to feed other family members in addition to be a source of debt payment.

Torture

According to human rights reports, torture in Al Houthi prisons reached about 5.000 cases in 2017 and death cases resulted from torture reached 100 cases. All of these cases and incidents occurred in one year and there is no particular or definite number about this crime during the conflict period because of lack of interest by the Human International Organizations, however; the UN did not visit the prisons or detention places in Yemen especially areas controlled by conflict parties despite the various calls by human rights organizations and groups and kidnapped mothers' alliance to interfere. This alliance reports pointed out that Al Houthi Group used all forms and types of torture against the detained.

Freedom of Expression

The situation of press in Yemen is the worst in its history. Journalists live very complicated and worrying suppression conditions more than any other country and for the first time in its history, this is in accordance with a recent report by the Information and Rehabilitation Center for Human Rights. Journalists in Yemen become 'an agreed upon' target for all suppression forces by killing, kidnapping, physical assault, starving, rights confiscation and lack of living insurance for them.

During the last three years different human rights reports monitored tens of severe violations cases against journalists in Yemen. In addition, Yemen is classified among the worst countries in the world regarding the freedom of expression. A report by Reporters without Borders revealed that Yemen comes in the grade no. 170 from 180 countries around the world. There are about 15 journalists who are forcibly concealed in Al Houthi prisons, while Al Houthi militias did not even inform their relatives about their health conditions and whether they are alive or not. According to documented narrations, many of them have kinetic disabilities due to the systematic torture they are experienced. The case of Gamal Al Mamari, who recently released from Al Houthi prisons, represents unprecedented brutal suppression case.

In the recent months, there were very brutal torture cases experienced by journalists in the prisons in Sana'a, Zamar, Iab and different areas in Yemeni cities. In addition, some of them were used as human shields in the current conflicts and

war. Also Sana'a powers confiscated all institutions, closed all websites and suppressed all Al Houthi opponents. Besides, armed forces targeted many journalists in Aden, Taiz, Hadr Moot and Marib.

The Information and Rehabilitation Center for Human Rights declared that it seriously follow the media conditions and situation and the violations experienced against media personnel, assuring that press world in Y- -en is 'the world of fear'. So the media personnel category in Yemen is the most vulnerable category to danger and violations whether through direct suppression or through starving and living humiliation. In addition, journalists in Yemen are deprived from their economic rights and insurance which guarantee dignity living for them. Hence all journalists are vulnerable to lose their jobs and rights any time.